

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An optical pickup device comprising:
 - a source of light;
 - a lens arranged on an optical path extending from said source of light to a magneto-optical recording medium;
 - a beam splitter arranged on an optical path extending from said source of light to said lens, to separate a portion of light reflected by said magneto-optical recording medium;
 - a photodetector detecting said reflected light separated by said beam splitter; and
 - a first diffraction element for servo signal generation arranged on an optical path extending from said beam splitter to said photodetector, wherein:
 - said beam splitter includes a first member made of isotropic optical material, reflecting light received from said source of light and directing the light to arrive at said magneto-optical recording medium, and passing a reflection of light received from said magneto-optical recording medium, and a second member adjacent to said first member, made of anisotropic optical material and further passing light reflected from said magneto-optical recording medium ~~past~~ through said first member;
 - said first diffraction element receives said light reflected from said magneto-optical recording medium ~~past~~ passing through said first member and said second member;
 - said first member is a prism having a parallelogramic cross section and having first parallel planes opposite each other and second parallel planes opposite each other and each traversing said first parallel planes at a

predetermined angle, one of said first parallel planes being arranged in contact with said second member, one of said second parallel planes being arranged opposite said source of light, the other of said second parallel planes being arranged opposite said lens;

said predetermined angle is so selected that light output from said source of light and incident on said one second parallel plane at a predetermined angle of incidence, is reflected initially by an other first parallel plane and then by said one first parallel plane and emerges from said other second parallel plane;

said photodetector includes a set of photodetection portions corresponding to a portion thereof divided in two by a boundary parallel to a plane orthogonal to said first and second parallel planes of said beam splitter;

said first diffraction element is divided in two by a line parallel to a plane orthogonal to said first and second parallel planes of said beam splitter, to have first and second regions; and

light reflected by said magneto-optical recording medium that is diffracted by said first region is directed to said boundary of said photodetection portions.

2. (previously presented) The optical pickup device of claim 1, wherein said first member has an index of refraction substantially equal to an extraordinary index of refraction of said second member.

3. (previously presented) The optical pickup device of claim 1, wherein said first member has an index of refraction having a difference from an extraordinary index of refraction of the second member of no more than one half a difference between an ordinary index of refraction and said extraordinary index of refraction of said second member .

4. (Cancelled)

5. (previously presented) The optical pickup device of claim 1, wherein said second member has a crystal axis selected to be orthogonal to light emerging from said other one of said second parallel planes and to form approximately 45° to a plane including a vector in a direction of the light emerging from said other one of said second parallel planes and a vector normal to said one of said first parallel planes.

6. (previously presented) The optical pickup device of claim 1, further comprising:

an optically transparent substrate arranged between said source of light and said photodetector, and said beam splitter; and
provided with said first diffraction element thereon.

7. (previously presented) The optical pickup device of claim 6, further comprising:

a second diffraction element for tracking beam generation arranged in said optically transparent substrate at a position to receive light output from said source of light, to divide the light received from said source of light into at least three beams of light.

8. (previously presented) The optical pickup device of claim 7, wherein said first and second diffraction elements are juxtaposed on a single plane.

9. (previously presented) The optical pickup device of claim 1, further comprising:

a ½ wave plate arranged between said source of light and said beam splitter.

10. (previously presented) The optical pickup device of claim 1, wherein said second member has an index of refraction of 1.4 to 2.0.

11. (previously presented) The optical pickup device of claim 10, wherein said second member is formed of lithium tetraborate.

12. (previously presented) The optical pickup device of claim 1, wherein outputs of said photodetection portions are compared with each other to obtain a focus error signal.